

**MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Room 445 State Capitol Building

February 5, 2014

Members Present: Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Co-Chair
Rep. Bradley G. Last, Co-Chair
Rep. Steve Eliason, House Vice Chair
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Sen. Aaron Osmond
Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher
Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart
Rep. Joel K. Briscoe
Rep. LaVar Christensen
Rep. Francis D. Gibson
Rep. Stephen G. Handy
Rep. Michael S. Kennedy
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Jim Nielson
Rep. Kraig Powell

Members Excused: Rep. David E. Lifferth

Members Absent: Sen. J. Stuart Adams
Sen. Mark B. Madsen

Staff Present: Mr. Ben Leishman, Fiscal Analyst
Dr. Thomas E. Young, Economist
Ms. Wendy Hill, Secretary

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Call to Order

Co-Chair Stephenson called the meeting to order at 8:23 a.m.

2. State Board of Education – Budget Priorities

Mr. David Crandall, Acting Chair, Utah State Board of Education (USBE) and Mr. David L. Thomas, Audit and Finance Chair, USBE reported to the subcommittee. “Utah State Board of Education Funding Priorities” was distributed to the subcommittee. Mr. Thomas discussed legislative expectations, ongoing items and one-time items.

Co-Chair Stephenson commended the board for the realistic funding requests. Rep. Gibson noted the collaborative effort between the Board and the Legislature. Sen. Hillyard asked about the

Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU) increase, Concurrent Enrollment, one-time money and staffing. Vice Chair Eliason talked about federal appropriations deductions aimed at teachers and increasing funds for Teacher Supplies. Rep. Briscoe asked if increasing the WPU value by three percent would be close to what the Governor recommends for other state employees. Mr. Leishman responded yes. Rep. Handy commented on Innovative Transportation and his bill that would require a 50 percent match in funds from school districts. Rep. Moss asked about the Graduation Initiative. Dr. Martell Menlove, State Superintendent, Utah Office of Education (USOE) said the funding would provide for forty new counselors, provide grants for new programs and increase part time mentors. She also asked about High Cost Special Education Students. Dr. Menlove said the request will augment the current appropriation. Ms. Glenna Gallo, Director of Special Education, USOE commented on the costs. Co- Chair Last and Dr. Menlove talked about the full funding of growth. Co- Chair Last commented about funding priorities and was pleased with the programs that offered grants. He asked about Early Intervention and UPSTART. Mr. Thomas and Dr. Menlove responded. Rep. Christensen asked for clarification about Concurrent Enrollment courses. Co-Chair Stephenson asked the USBE how they would prioritize if they had less money, if Graduation Initiative works with digital tools such as Utah Futures, how the USBE would prioritize the requests of the State Charter School Board and Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind (USDB) and feedback on nonlapsing balances. Mr. Thomas said nonlapsing balances are used for items such as the IT staff, a suicide prevention specialist, disaster clean-up and a communication specialist. He asked for an increase to the Professional Practices fund.

Ms. Jan Ferre', Education Chair, Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities pointed out the challenges of working with high cost Special Education students.

3. State Charter School Board – Budget Priorities

Ms. Laura Belnap, Board Member and Ms. Kristin Elinkowski, Board Member, State Charter School Board discussed their priorities: increased funding for five full time staff members, more startup money, an increase of the revolving loan and keeping their nonlapsing balance.

4. Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind – Budget Priorities

Mr. Joel Coleman, Superintendent, USDB and Mr. Scott Jones, Finance Director, USDB stated their nonlapsing balance was necessary for infrastructure and technology demands.

Sen. Osmond backed the goal of a new building for the USDB. Mr. Coleman said the USDB is under the direct auspices of the state and this project is more likely to be approved if the funds came from the subcommittee. The subcommittee discussed ways it could be funded.

MOTION: Sen. Osmond moved that the subcommittee make the USDB building an education priority and funding sources be determined during the prioritization process. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Hillyard, Sen. Thatcher, Rep. Briscoe and Rep. Gibson absent for the vote.

Mr. Jones and Mr. Coleman reviewed the funding requests of the USDB. They included more teacher positions, a student database and professional development.

Co-Chair Stephenson expressed confidence in the leadership of the USDB.

MOTION: Rep. Osmond moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Hillyard, Sen. Thatcher, Rep. Briscoe and Rep. Gibson absent for the vote.

Co-Chair Stephenson adjourned the meeting at 9:51 a.m.

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Co-Chair

Rep. Bradley G. Last, Co-Chair